New York State Council on the Arts Annual Report 1984-85. Reports by Film and Media Programs

Total Local Assistance Awards: \$35,300,000, Media: \$1,275,000 (1984-5)

MEDIA PROGRAM

Director: John Giancola (to July 1984), Dai Sil Kim-Gibson

Program Analysts: Eugene Matta, Arthur Tsuchiya

The Media Program, since its birth in 1970, has played a paramount role in the field of video and audio arts by helping artists and institutions create programs and make them accessible to the citizens of the State. As the first state media program in the country, it has shaped and been shaped by the field and has firmly established its position of leadership. Through its support, in the past year, the Program has continued to help this relatively young field of video and audio to obtain stronger footing with wider recognition as important new art forms.

The Program participated in the excitement of the expanding field as the range of video became increasingly vast, especially when it was accompanied by the growing capacities of computers. The technical advances raised a number of complex questions and issues. As artists gained better control of the equipment and a greater control of their technical options, the development of technology accelerated. The question of who can afford to pay for access to technology became serious; the question of balancing technical innovation with artistic vision and integrity attracted the attention of artists and funders. Mindful of the complex questions, the Program supported those individuals and institutions which had a strong impact on the field while constantly searching for and supporting emerging institutions and artists throughout the State.

In 1984-85, the Media Program awarded funds to 78 organizations for 150 projects (including 32 production awards). Expressing its fundamental conviction that production is still vital for this new and growing field, the Program expended 25% (\$321,952) of its total allocation (\$1,275,000) for production of individual artists' works through sponsoring organizations, supporting various genres—video art, video documentary/narrative, audio art, audio documentary/narrative and cable TV series. The awards ranged from \$2,412 to record and broadcast the Blue Mountain Folk Festival by the North Country Public Radio (WSLU) in St. Lawrence County to \$20,000 for Vito Acconci's Discipline, a video art work sponsored by Haleakala (the Kitchen). A complete list of production awards including media artists, sponsoring organizations and titles of projects appears on pages 146-147.

Recognizing the importance of making artists' works available to the public, the Program supported a number of exhibition projects, which accounted for 23% of its budget, totaling \$289,415. The grant in the Exhibition category made possible year-round exhibition programs, single exhibitions and touring exhibitions, curated and presented by both small and major institutions throughout the State. Through these exhibitions, numerous new and experimental works were presented to young and adult audiences. The Program awarded a grant to the Staten Island Children's Museum for installation of audio art in the museum's Soundtrack exhibition which explores sounds in the environment, simple and complex musical instruments, felt vibrations and visible electronic signals, combining informational and experimental units. The Media Alliance received a grant in this category to assist the New York State Museum in Albany in preparing its first exhibition of video art, and eventually co-sponsor a tour of this exhibition to high schools and art centers around the State.

The Services to the Field category occupied a high percentage (28.5% or \$363,394) of the Program's budget, reflecting the growth of service organizations and their expanding activities, including acquisition and distribution, information sharing, study centers for artists and institutions, and equipment services. The Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System received a grant to add to its collection of video art tapes by independent artists. The works in the collection are shown at its headquarters, loaned with the necessary equipment to member libraries and to galleries for special video exhibits. The Program awarded a grant to Locus Communications to complete a video equipment pool which will be made available at low cost to arts organizations proposing to present exhibitions of multi-channel video installations.

The Program increased support in the Artists-in-Residence category, expanding programs in this area to upstate New York. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy received an award for the initiation of a video artist-in-residence program. This program provides access to the Institute's outstanding computer graphics facilities. Support continued for general operating expenses of those institutions which render important services to, and play a crucial role in the growth of the field.

Due to the difficulties some organizations experience when trying to raise the required "matching" money, the Program experienced a slight decrease in the Regrant category. The Program continued to provide funds for regrant programs, recognizing the importance of broadening production resources for independent artists by encouraging eligible organizations to match Council funds.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Bronx Museum of the Arts \$6.000

Downtown Community Television Center; Manhattan \$6,000

Global Village Resource Center; Manhattan \$7,000

Harvestworks; Manhattan \$5,000

Holographic Film Foundation; Manhattan \$5,000

Museum of Holography; Manhattan \$5,000

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Troy \$4,350

Visual Studies Workshop; Rochester \$6,500

Women's Interart Center; Manhattan \$24,000

AUDIO ART

Fashion Moda; Bronx

\$8,000

Harvestworks; Manhattan

\$17,040

Rio Grande Union; Manhattan

\$7,000

Roulette Extramedia Resources; Manhattan

\$8,000

WSLU-FM; Canton

\$2,412

ZBS Foundation; Fort Edward

\$18,000

AUDIO DOCUMENTARY NARRATIVE

New Radio and Performing Arts; Manhattan \$4,000

New York Foundation for the Arts; Manhattan

\$12,000

Performing Artservices; Manhattan

\$8,000

Radio Foundation; Manhattan

\$10,000

CABLE TV SERIES

Experimental Intermedia Foundation; Manhattan \$9,000

Locus Communications; Manhattan \$3,000

North Bronx Neighborhood Restoration Association \$10,000

Queens Council on the Arts \$3,000

Raindance Foundation; Manhattan \$8,500

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Akwesasne Cultural Center; Hogansburg \$1,050

Museum of the American Indian; Manhattan \$3,002

Tonawandas Council on the Arts; North Tonawanda \$3,894

EXHIBITION

Alternative Center for International Arts; Manhattan \$5,000

Artmusic; Brooklyn \$3,500

Asian Cine-Vision; Manhattan \$5,000

Astoria Motion Picture and Television Foundation; Queens \$7,500

Black Filmmaker Foundation; Manhattan \$5,000

Bronx Museum of the Arts \$6,000

Brooklyn Arts and Culture Association \$7,550

Center for New Art Activities; Manhattan \$5,000

Collaborative Projects; Manhattan \$3,500

Educational Broadcasting Corporation; Manhattan \$11,000

Experimental Intermedia Foundation; Manhattan \$7,000

Film Art Fund; Manhattan \$13,500

Franklin Furnace Archive; Manhattan \$2,000

Friends of the Davis Center; Manhattan \$4,500

Global Village Resource Center; Manhattan \$15,000

Haleakala; Manhattan \$39,000

Hallwalls; Buffalo \$10,000

Institute for Art and Urban Resources; Queens \$7,000

International Center for Photography; Manhattan \$9,000

Locus Communications; Manhattan \$5,000

Media Study; Buffalo \$38,000

Mid-Hudson Library System; Poughkeepsie \$4,600

Museum of Broadcasting; Manhattan \$1.000

Museum of Modern Art; Manhattan \$18,500

Museum of the American Indian; Manhattan \$4,085

New Radio and Performing Arts; Manhattan \$2,000

New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations; Manhattan \$1,920

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Troy \$2,500

Soho Baroque Opera Company; Manhattan \$4,000

Staten Island Children's Museum \$3,800

Tonawandas Council on the Arts; North Tonawanda \$3,000

Visual Studies Workshop; Rochester \$11,050

White Columns; Manhattan \$6,860

Whitney Museum of American Art; Manhattan \$15,000

Women's Studio Workshop; Rosendale \$2,050

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

Asian Cine-Vision; Manhattan

\$5,000

Downtown Community Television Center; Manhattan \$46,000

Experimental Intermedia Foundation; Manhattan \$6,000

Experimental Television Center; Owego \$31,000

Inter-Media Art Center; Huntington \$30,000

Locus Communications; Manhattan \$20,325

Media Alliance; Manhattan \$16,128

Media Bus; Woodstock \$15,000

Portable Channel; Rochester \$12,500

WSLU-FM; Canton \$2,000

MEDIA COLLABORATIONS

People's Communication Network; Manhattan \$12,000

REGRANT PROGRAM

Film Fund; Manhattan \$12,000

SERVICES TO THE FIELD

185 Nassau Street Corporation; Brooklyn

\$17,960

Alternative Media Information Center; Manhattan \$17,767

American Federation of the Arts; Manhattan \$10,000

Asian Cine-Vision; Manhattan \$2,000

Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library; Jamestown \$5,000

Electronic Arts Intermix; Manhattan \$35,500

En Foco; Bronx \$4,000

Film News Now Foundation; Manhattan \$1,500

Foundation for Independent Video and Film; Manhattan \$29,500

Free Media; Manhattan \$4,000

Haleakala; Manhattan \$45,000

Harvestworks; Manhattan \$12,000

Locus Communications; Manhattan \$13,840

Media Alliance; Manhattan \$5.400

Media Study; Buffalo \$15,000

Mid-Hudson Library System; Poughkeepsie \$817

Museum of the American Indian; Manhattan \$1,050

New Wilderness Foundation; Manhattan \$9,000

New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations; Manhattan \$12,900

Pacifica Foundation; Manhattan \$8,000

Parabola Arts Foundation; Manhattan \$6,000

Port Washington Public Library \$20,650

Staten Island Children's Museum \$5,000

Visual Studies Workshop; Rochester \$5,500

WSLU-FM; Canton \$2,000

Women Make Movies; Manhattan \$5,000

Young Filmakers Foundation; Manhattan \$69,000

VIDEO ART

Collaborative Projects; Manhattan \$8,000

Electronic Arts Intermix; Manhattan \$8,000

Experimental Television Center; Owego \$41,000

Haleakala; Manhattan

\$28,000

Media Study; Buffalo

\$21,000

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Troy

\$4,000

VIDEO DOCUMENTARY

185 Nassau Street Corporation; Brooklyn \$15,000

Akwesasne Cultural Center; Hogansburg \$12,000

Alternative Media Information Center; Manhattan \$8,000

Basement Workshop; Manhattan \$10,000

Film News Now Foundation; Manhattan \$10,000

New York Foundation for the Arts; Manhattan \$10,000

Video Repetorie; Manhattan \$19,000

WRITING ON MEDIA ART

185 Nassau Street Corporation; Brooklyn \$2,000

Educational Film Library Association; Manhattan \$1,500

Foundation for Independent Video and Film; Manhattan \$2,500

Future Press; Manhattan \$2.000

Harvestworks; Manhattan \$2.000

Visual Studies Workshop; Rochester \$5,500

Advisory Panelists:

Mr. Jay Allison, Radio Producer; Accord

Mr. Peer D. Bode, Program Coordinator, Experimental Television Center; Owego

Mr. Ed Bowes, Independent Video Producer; Manhattan

Mr. Luis Cancel, Director, Bronx Museum of Art; Bronx

Mr. Collis Davis, Jr., Video Artist; Brooklyn

Mr. John Driscoll, Audio Artist; Brooklyn

Ms. Ronnie Geist, Administrator/Producer, Women's Interart Center; Manhattan

Ms. Julie M. Gustafson, Video Artist, Global Village Video Research Center; Manhattan

Mr. Robert Kanter, Independent Producer, Robert Kanter Productions; Manhattan

Ms. Shigeko Kubota, Video Artist, Curator, Anthology Film Archive; Manhattan

Ms. Barbara London, Video Curator, The Museum of Modern Art; Manhattan

Mr. Nathan Lyons, Director, Visual Studies Workshop; Rochester

Ms. Karen Ranucci, Assistant Director, Downtown Community Television Center; Manhattan

Total Local Assistance Awards: \$35,300,000, Film: \$1,770,000

FILM PROGRAM

Director: B. Ruby Rich

Program Analyst: Claude Meyer, Debby Silverfine

The Film Program addressed the needs of cinema as an art form and a professional field in 1984-85. Awards totaling \$1,770,000 were made to 109 organizations carrying out a total of 197 different projects. The Film Program staff traveled throughout the State to hold special meetings in order to inform new applicants, with special attention paid to upstate regions, minority organizations and production applicants. The success of these initiatives may be seen in the 20% ratio of funding to first-time applicants to the Film Program.

This year, the Film Program targeted three areas of priority: distribution, production and exhibition. A number of new awards were made in each of these categories.

The lack of adequate distribution has restricted many exhibitors' choices of films and prevented many filmmakers from reaching potential audiences. An award to the Film Fund supporting a pilot project aimed at providing distribution expertise to individual filmmakers will yield valuable data on distribution and marketing strategies for New York State artists. An award to the Independent Film Distributors created a subsidy program for the distribution of independent work to non-theatrical exhibitors throughout New York. Finally, the Film Program's own pilot project of funding for the distribution of films that originally received production support from the Film Program was formalized as an ongoing category.

Film production has continued to be a category where there is intense economic need, especially with the disappearance of so many federal funding sources. The Film Program increased its support of filmmaking by nearly 20% in 1984-85, with a total of almost \$350,000 awarded to the development, production and post-production stages of 25 different film projects. Significantly, in 1984-85, numerous Council-funded films went on to theatrical release, festival selection and even home-video release. In 1985, The Times of Harvey Milk won an Academy Award as best documentary. It had received its early start-up money from the Council in 1982-83. The Film Program continued to fund all genres of filmmaking, with awards to animated work, dramatic films, documentaries and avant garde films. A complete list of film production awards, including filmmakers' names and film titles, appears on page 145-146.

Exhibition has remained a major foundation of film activity statewide, with an unprecedented number of new awards made in the category this year. An award to the Concerned Black Filmmaker of New York, Inc. supported a new film series housed in a Harlem brownstone. An award to the American Museum of Natural History affirmed the Film Program's support, for the first time, of the Margaret Mead Film Festival. A number of awards were made to upstate groups for first-time film exhibition series, with the Arts Theatre of Schenectady, the Catskill Center for Photography and the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute among those receiving initial awards.

Also receiving first-time funding was the Theatre for Young People in Herkimer County, with funds going to the support of a children's film festival. In New York City, an award to the Media Center for Children acknowledged this long-time applicant's expansion of its information services, with a full-time information director now providing expertise on children's media to organizations state-wide.

The Film Department of the Museum of Modern Art celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1985. In addition to support for ongoing programs, partial funding was provided to the Film

Department for its hosting of the Federation of International Archives of Film's major conference in Spring, 1985, which marked its first meeting in the United States in sixteen years, bringing cinematheques and archivists from all over the world into contact with New York's film organizations and filmmakers.

ACQUISITION

Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library; Jamestown \$30,500

Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System; Plattsburgh \$12,000

Crandall Library; Glens Falls \$1,200

Mid-Hudson Library System; Poughkeepsie \$10,000

Mid-York Library System; Utica \$5,000

Movies on a Shoe String; Rochester \$695

North Country Library System; Watertown \$7,000

Suffolk Cooperative Library System; Bellport \$5,000

Wayne County Library System; Newark \$4,800

DISTRIBUTION

American Federation of the Arts; Manhattan \$21,000

Black Filmmaker Foundation; Manhattan \$9,000

Camera News; Manhattan \$7,000

Film Fund; Manhattan \$15,000

Independent Film Distributors; Manhattan \$15,000

Women Make Movies; Manhattan \$7,000

DISTRIBUTION FOR PREVIOUS PRODUCTION RECIPIENTS

Collective for Living Cinema; Manhattan \$4,000

Kineholistics Foundation; Manhattan \$3,000

Living Archives; Manhattan \$3,000

Metropolitan Arts; Manhattan \$3,000

Now and Then Productions; Brooklyn \$5,000

Portable Channel; Rochester \$1,000

EQUIPMENT ACCESS

Media Study; Buffalo \$8,000

Millennium Film Workshop; Manhattan \$19,000

Portable Channel; Rochester \$22,000

Young Filmakers Foundation; Manhattan \$100,000

EXHIBITION

92nd Street YM-YWHA; Manhattan \$5,000

Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts; Blue Mountain Lake \$1,500

Afrikan Poetry Theatre; Queens \$2,500

Altermedia; Staten Island \$8,000

American Museum of Natural History; Manhattan \$6,000

Arts Center Theatre of Schenectady \$1,500

Arts Council of Orange County; Middletown \$2,500

Asian Cine-Vision; Manhattan \$13,000

Astoria Motion Picture and Television Foundation; Queens \$17,000

Brooklyn Arts and Culture Association \$1,500

Budapest-New York Theatre Arts Foundation; Manhattan \$4,000

Camera News; Manhattan \$10,500

Catskill Center for Photography; Woodstock \$1,500

Central Hall Artists; Manhattan \$3,130

Charas; Manhattan \$6,000

Chenango County Council of the Arts; Norwich \$1,500

Cinema 10; Potsdam \$5,000

Colgate University; Hamilton \$2,000

Collective for Living Cinema; Manhattan \$38,000

Committee for the Visual Arts; Manhattan \$4,000

Communications Commission Broadcast and Industry Film Committee of the National Council of Churches; Manhattan \$6,000

Concerned Black Filmmaker of New York; Manhattan \$6,000

Cornell University; Ithaca \$4,000

Crandall Library; Glens Falls \$7,940

Everson Museum of Art of Syracuse and Onondaga County \$1,000

Finkelstein Memorial Library; Spring Valley \$1,500

Friends of the Davis Center; Manhattan \$3,500

Greek Cultural Center; Queens \$3,500

Haleakala; Manhattan \$5,000

Hallwalls; Buffalo \$4,000

Ibero American Action League; Rochester \$4,000

Independent Feature Project; Manhattan \$3,000

Institute for Art and Urban Resources; Queens \$4,000

International Museum of Photography; Rochester \$5,000

Jewish Center of Greater Buffalo; Getzville \$6,000

Jewish Museum; Manhattan \$5,000

Lake Placid Association for Music, Drama and Art \$2,000

Latin-American Workshop; Manhattan \$4,000

Library Action Committee of Corona; Queens \$2,500

Malone Arts Council \$1,000

Mamaroneck Free Library \$1,200

Media Study; Buffalo \$38,000

Millennium Film Workshop; Manhattan \$9,000

Movies on a Shoe String; Rochester \$505

Moving Image; Manhattan \$57,800

Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute; Utica \$1,000

Museum of Modern Art; Manhattan \$36,000

Museum of the American Indian; Manhattan \$3,000

New Community Cinema Club; Huntington \$50,000

New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations; Manhattan \$3,360

New York Shakespeare Festival; Manhattan \$15,000

Parrish Art Museum; Southampton \$3,000

Port Washington Public Library \$13,000

Portable Channel; Rochester \$4,000

Queens Cultural Association \$2,000

Rockfand Center for the Arts; West Nyack \$3,000

Syracuse Area Landmark Theatre \$4,000

Syracuse Cultural Workers Project \$6,000

Theatre for Young People/ Herkimer County; Herkimer \$1,000

United Jewish Y's of Long Island; Plainview \$1,000

Upstate Films; Rhinebeck \$20,385

Utica College Film Society \$3,000

Valley Filmworks; Manhattan \$5,000

Visual Studies Workshop; Rochester \$2,000

Whitney Museum of American Art; Manhattan \$15,000

Women/Artist/Filmmakers; Manhattan \$2,900

Women Make Movies; Manhattan \$2,637

Women's Studio Workshop; Rosendale \$3,500

YM-YWHA of Washington Heights and Inwood; Manhattan \$1,000

FILM PRESERVATION

Experimental Intermedia Foundation; Manhattan \$6,000

House Foundation for the Arts; Manhattan \$5,000

International Museum of Photography; Rochester \$25,000

Museum of Modern Art; Manhattan \$42,000

FILM PRODUCTION

Akuaba Productions; Brooklyn \$12,000

Alternative Media Information Center; Manhattan \$34,750

Asian Cine-Vision; Manhattan \$15,000

Black Filmmaker Foundation; Manhattan \$18,000

Budapest-New York Theatre Arts Foundation; Manhattan \$730

Camera News; Manhattan \$10,000

Cine Information; Manhattan \$20,000

Collective for Living Cinema; Manhattan \$28,000

Committee for the Visual Arts; Manhattan \$20,900

Emmaus House; Manhattan \$14,000

Film Fund; Manhattan \$12,500

Film News Now Foundation; Manhattan \$10,000

Kineholistics Foundation; Manhattan \$15,000

Media Study; Buffalo \$7,000

Millenium Film Workshop; Manhattan \$5,100

Moving Image; Manhattan

\$12,879

New York Foundation for the Arts; Manhattan

\$10,000

Performing Artservices; Manhattan

\$19,000

Richard Allen Center for Culture and Art; Manhattan

\$17,500

Segue Foundation; Manhattan

\$17,000

Senior Action in a Gay Environment; Manhattan

\$15,500

Utica College Film Society

\$20,000

Women Make Movies; Manhattan

\$15,000

FILM FOR TELECAST

Artmusic; Brooklyn

\$4,000

Media Study; Buffalo

\$6,000

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

Astoria Motion Picture and Television Foundation; Queens

\$30,000

Educational Film Library Association; Manhattan

\$25,000

Film Fund; Manhattan

\$18,000

Film Society of Lincoln Center; Manhattan \$82,000

International Film Seminars; Manhattan \$5,500

INFORMATION SERVICES

Alternative Media Information Center; Manhattan \$8,000

Asian Cine-Vision; Manhattan \$7,000

Astoria Motion Picture and Television Foundation; Queens \$4,352

Black Filmmaker Foundation; Manhattan \$2,000

Clearinghouse for Arts Information; Manhattan \$6,000

Educational Film Library Association; Manhattan \$4,000

Film News Now Foundation; Manhattan \$2,000

Foundation for Independent Video and Film; Manhattan \$47,500

Independent Feature Project; Manhattan \$17,000

Media Center for Children; Manhattan \$25,000

Mid-Hudson Library System; Poughkeepsie \$7,500

Museum of the American Indian; Manhattan \$2,050

New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations; Manhattan \$12,000

PUBLICATION

Alternative Media Information Center; Manhattan \$3,000

Foundation for Independent Video and Film; Manhattan \$20,000

Millennium Film Workshop; Manhattan \$6,000

Visual Studies Workshop; Rochester \$3,000

REGRANT PROGRAM

Brooklyn Arts and Culture Association \$6,500

Educational Film Library Association; Manhattan \$3,000

Young Filmakers Foundation; Manhattan \$60,000

TOURING FILM EXHIBITION

Akwesasne Cultural Center; Hogansburg \$1,020

American Federation of the Arts; Manhattan \$3,000

Black Filmmaker Foundation; Manhattan \$5,000

Free Media; Manhattan \$15,000

WORKSHOPS

Alternative Media Information Center; Manhattan \$3,000

Astoria Motion Picture and Television Foundation; Queens \$8,000

Camera News; Manhattan \$6,500

Collective for Living Cinema; Manhattan \$5,667

Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center; Manhattan \$5,000

International Film Seminars; Manhattan \$3.000

Media Study; Buffalo \$8,000

Millennium Film Workshop; Manhattan \$3,000

Women's Interart Center; Manhattan \$15.000

Young Filmakers Foundation; Manhattan \$6,000

Advisory Panelists:

Ms. Carmen Ashhurst, Executive Director, Film Fund; Manhattan

Mr. Skip Battaglia, Animator, Portable Channel; Rochester

Ms. Jeanne Erwin, Vice President, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company; Manhattan

Ms. Kate Flax, Executive Director, Collective for Living Cinema; Manhattan

Mr. Bruce Jenkins, Film Programmer, Media Study/Buffalo; Buffalo

Ms. Joanne Koch, Executive Director, Film Society of Lincoln Center; Manhattan

Mr. David Liu Producer, Director; Manhattan

Mr. Scott MacDonald, Director, Film Society, Utica College; Utica

Ms. Christine McDonald, Director, Crandall Library; Glens Falls

Mr. Pedro A. Rivera, Filmmaker; Manhattan

Mr. Lawrence Sapadin, Executive Director, Foundation for Independent Video and Film; Manhattan

Ms. Jacqueline Shearer, Filmmaker; Manhattan

Ms. Rochelle Slovin, Executive Director, Astoria Motion Pictures and Television Foundation; Queens